NCAA Tournament: Texas Tech reaches Sweet 16 SPORTSDAY

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RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Report: No collusion

No evidence Trump campaign 'conspired'

'It also does not exonerate him,' Mueller wrote

Calls made for full report to be released

Analysis: GOP laments wasted time after evidence of complicity not found

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WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump claimed "complete and total exoneration" Sunday after the attorney general — summarizing the findings of a special counsel that Trump had long disparaged — told Congress that "while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him."

"This was an illegal takedown that failed," Trump said. "It's complete exoneration. No collusion. No obstruction."

Republicans focused on the findings of no collusion, however. Texas' senators, John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, did not echo Trump's claims that he'd been exonerated, not in the first six hours at least.

Cornyn retweeted the national GOP's talking points noting how long the inquiry took, the investigative resources it soaked up, and the predicted finding that "The Democrats' attacks...were wrong. There was no COLLUSION."

He later tweeted that lawmakers should be more focused on Russian aggression.

A Cornyn aide said late Sunday that the senator will address the report Monday.

Among Trump allies, a common line of argument was that the investigation had not yielded a smoking gun, so it's time to move on.

"It is time for Congress to work together to move America forward!!" tweeted Rep. Bill Flores, R-Bryan, a leading conservative in the House.

The findings revealed so far won't sway those who see him as a paragon of something far removed from virtue.

"I suppose this means it's ok for a future presidential candidate on the stump to say `China, Iran, North Korea...if you're listening please find my opponent's emails/voicemails/

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Alex Brandon/ The Associated Press

"It's a shame that our country has had to go through this," President Donald Trump said after the summary of the Russia investigation was released. "It's a shame that your president has had to go through this."

Trump cheers summary; showdown brewing between attorney general, Democrats

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Robert Mueller did not find evidence that President Donald Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election but reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice, Attorney General William Barr declared Sunday. That brought a hearty claim of vindication from Trump but set the stage for new rounds of political and legal fighting.

WILLIAM BARR

ROBERT MUELLER

Trump cheered the outcome but also laid bare his resentment after two years of investigations that have shadowed his administration. "It's a shame that our country has had to go through this. To be honest, it's a shame that your president has had to go through this," he complained.

Democrats pointed out that Mueller found evidence for and against obstruction and demanded to see his full report. They insisted that even the summary by the president's attorney general hardly put him in the clear.

Mueller's conclusions, summarized by Barr in a four-page letter to Congress, represented a victory for Trump on a key question that has hung over his presidency from the start: Did his campaign work with Russia to defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton? That was further good news for the president on top of the Justice Department's earlier announcement that Mueller had wrapped his investigation without new indictments. The resolution also could deflate the hopes of Democrats in Congress and on the 2020 campaign trail that incriminating findings from Mueller would hobble the president's agenda

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AT A GLANCE Takeaways from the summary

No collusion

The confidential report says the investigation "did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities."

Obstruction, exoneration

"While this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him," Mueller wrote in his report. Instead, the special counsel laid out the evidence on both sides of the question.

Barr's decision

Barr, who was appointed by Trump, says he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein decided there wasn't sufficient evidence to establish that the president obstructed justice.

All clear?

No. Trump also plays a central role in a separate case in New York, where prosecutors have implicated him in a crime. They say Trump directed his personal lawyer Michael Cohen to arrange illegal hush-money payments as a way to quash potential sex scandals during the campaign. New York prosecutors also are looking into Trump's inaugural fund.

The Associated Press

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WHEN Robert Mueller left the obstruction question open, William Barr stepped in. **8A**

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NATION

Getting the ball rolling in Vegas

Beto O'Rourke's budding presidential campaign arrived in Nevada, an early caucus state that will test his ability to appeal to minority voters. **2A**

SPORTSDAY

Saying goodbye to Globe Life Park

With Opening Day this week, Rangers fans can start looking forward to an interesting, exciting season, even if the playoffs are out of reach, writes Tim Cowlishaw. **1C**

Countdown to Election Day

April 4 is the the last day to register for the May 4 local elections.

Am I registered to vote? Find out at VoteTexas.gov, which is run by the Texas secretary of state.

Where can I apply to register? Visit your county voter registrar's office, libraries, and most post offices and high schools. You also can fill out an application online, print it and mail it to your county office, or request that a postage-paid application be mailed to you.

Early voting begins April 22 and ends April 30.

FEDERAL COURT

Surgeons: Our lawyers signed off on marketing payments

Defense begins in trial of doctors accused of taking kickbacks

By KEVIN KRAUSE
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Criminals rarely consult with their attorneys before planning to break the law.

That is the argument several surgeons want to make in the Forest Park Medical Center bribery trial that's underway in federal court in Dallas.

But before they can call their first witness, defense lawyers are locked in a heated battle with government prosecutors over whether they should even be allowed to put on an "advice of counsel" defense.

Prosecutors have asked the judge to keep out any testimony from health care lawyers who advised the surgeons on how to set up third-party entities to handle marketing payments.

Those marketing payments are key to the government's case. Prosecutors say the doctors used the marketing contracts to conceal bribe payments they received from Forest Park for bringing surgeries to the hospital, an ille-

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